
RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

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awn-ing (ô'ning), *n.* 1. a rooflike shelter of canvas or other material extending over a doorway, from the top of a window, over a deck, etc., in order to provide protection, as from the sun. 2. a shelter. [1615-25; orig. uncert.] —**awn/ing**, *adj.*

awn/ing deck, *Naut.* a weather deck supported on very light scantlings. [1865-70]

awn/ing win/dow, a window frame having one or more sashes hinged at the top and swinging outward.

awn/less brome/grass. See Hungarian brome-grass. [AWN + -LESS]

a-woke (ə wôk'), *v.* a pt. and pp. of **awake**.

a-wo-ken (ə wô'kən), *v.* a pp. of **awake**.

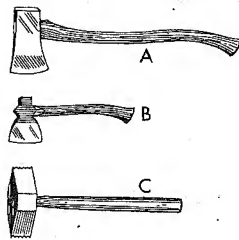
AWOL (pronounced as initials or ă'wôl, ă'wôl), *adj.*, *adv.* 1. away from military duties without permission, but without the intention of deserting. —*n.* 2. a soldier or other military person who is absent from duty without leave. 3. **go AWOL**, *a.* to depart from military duty without leave. *b.* to absent oneself without explanation. Also, **awol**, **A.W.O.L.**, **a.w.o.l.** [1915-20; *A(bsent) W(ith)out L(eave)*]

A-wo-lo-wo (ä wô'lo wô'), *n.* **O-ba-fe-mi** (ô bā'fā-mē), born 1909, Nigerian lawyer and statesman.

a-wry (ə ri'), *adv.*, *adj.* 1. with a turn or twist to one side; askew; to glance or look awry. 2. away from the expected or proper direction; amiss; wrong: *Our plans went awry.* [1325-75; ME on *wry*. See *a-1*, *wry*]

aw-shucks (ô'shuks'), *adj.* *Informal.* characterized by a shy, embarrassed, often provincial manner. [1930-35]

ax (aks), *n.*, *pl.* **ax-es** (ak'siz), *v.*, **axed**, **ax-ing**. —*n.* 1. an instrument with a bladed head on a handle or helve, used for hewing, cleaving, chopping, etc. 2. *Jazz Slang.* any musical instrument. 3. **have an ax to grind**, to have a personal or selfish motive: *His interest may be sincere, but I suspect he has an ax to grind.* 4. **the ax**, *Informal.* a dismissal from employment: *to get the ax*. 5. expulsion from school. 6. rejection by a lover, friend, etc.: *His girlfriend gave him the ax.* 7. any usually summary removal or curtailment. —*v.* 1. to shape or trim with an ax. 2. to chop, split, destroy, break open, etc., with an ax: *The firemen had to ax the door to reach the fire.* 3. *Informal.* to dismiss, restrict, or destroy brutally, as if with an ax: *The main office axed those in the field who didn't meet their quota.* 4. *Congress axed the budget.* Also, **axe**. [bef. 1000; ME; *ax(e)*, *ex(e)*, OE *æx*, *æces*; akin to Goth *akwiz*, ON *ax*, *qz*, OHG *acc(h)us*, *a(c)hus* (G *Axt*), MHG *pl. exa* < Gmc **akwiz-*, *akuz-*, *akxi-* < **akos*, *aks-*; L *ascia* (< **acsiā*), Gk *axinē*; < IE **ag-s-*] —**ax/like**, *adj.*



axes
A, common ax;
B, hatchet;
C, stonemason's ax

ax-, var. of **axi-**, esp. before a vowel.

ax-, axiom.

Ax-a (ak'sə), *n.* Douay Bible. Achshah.

ax-an-thop-si-a (ak'sən thop'si ə), *n.* *Ophthalm.* a defect of vision in which the retina fails to respond to yellow. [*A-* + *XANTH(O)-* + *-OPHIA*]

axe (aks), *n.*, *pl.* **ax-es** (ak'siz), *v.*, **axed**, **ax-ing**. *ax.*

ax-el (ak'səl), *n.* *Figure Skating.* a jump performed by a skater leaping from the front outer edge of one skate into the air to make 1½ rotations of the body and landing on the back outer edge of the other skate. [1925-30; after Axel Paulsen (1855-1938), Norwegian figure skater, who popularized the maneuver]

Ax-el (ak'səl), *n.* a male given name.

Ax-el Hei-berg (ak'səl hi'bûrg), the largest island belonging to the Sverdrup group in the Canadian Northwest Territories, 15,779 sq. mi. (40,868 sq. km).

Ax-el-rod (ak'səl rod'), *n.* **Julius**, born 1912, U.S. biochemist and pharmacologist; Nobel prize for medicine 1970.

ax-en-ic (ä zen'ik, ä zē'nik), *adj.* *Biol.* 1. (of an experimental animal) raised under sterile conditions; germfree. 2. (of a laboratory culture) uncontaminated. [1940-45; *A-* + Gk *xenikós* foreign. See *XENO-*, *-IC*] —**ax-en/i-cal-ly**, *adv.*

ax-es (ak'sēz), *n.* *pl.* of **axis**.

ax-es (ak'siz), *n.* *pl.* of **ax** or **axe**.

axi-, a combining form meaning "axis": *axial*; *axilemma*. Also, **axo-**; esp. before a vowel, **ax-**. [comb. form repr. L *axis* axle, wheel; c. Gk *áxōn*, Skt *ákṣas*, Lith *akis*, OCS *osŭ*, OE *ax*]

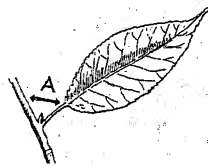
ax-i-al (ak'sē əl), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, characterized by, or forming an axis: *an axial relationship*. 2. situated in or on an axis. [1840-50; *AXI-* + *-AL*] —**ax/i-al-i-ty**, *n.* —**ax/i-al-ly**, *adv.*

ax-i-al-flow (ak'sē əl flô'), *adj.* having a fluid flow parallel to an axis of rotation, as in a turbine.

ax-i-al skel/eton, *Anat.* the skeleton of the head and trunk. [1870-75]

ax-il (ak'sil), *n.* *Bot.* the angle between the upper side of a leaf or stem and the supporting stem or branch. [1785-95; < L *axilla* armpit]

A, axil



ax-ile (ak'sil), *adj.* *Bot.* in or of an axis. [1835-45; < L *ax(is)* *AXIS* + *-ILE*]

ax-i-lem-ma (ak'sə lem'mə), *n.*, *pl.* **-lem-ma-ta** (-lem'mə-tə). *Anat.* the membrane surrounding the axon of a nerve fiber. [*AXI-* + *LEMMA*]

ax-il-la (ak'sil'ə), *n.*, *pl.* **ax-il-lae** (ak'sil'ē). 1. *Anat.* the armpit. 2. *Ornith.* the corresponding region under the wing of a bird. 3. *Bot.* an axil. [1610-20; < L]

ax-il-lar (ak'sə lər), *n.* *Ornith.* an axillary feather. [1535-45; *AXILLA* (A) + *-AR*]

ax-il-lar-y (ak'sə lər'ē), *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* **-lar-ies**. —*adj.* 1. *Anat.*, *Ornith.* pertaining to the axilla. 2. *Bot.* pertaining to or growing from the axil. —*n.* 3. *Ornith.* axillary. [1605-15; *AXILLA* (A) + *-ARY*]

ax'il-lary bud, *Bot.* a bud that is borne at the axil of a leaf and is capable of developing into a branch shoot or flower cluster. Also called **lateral bud**. See *illus.* under **axil**.

ax-i-nite (ak'sə nīt'), *n.* a mineral, complex calcium and aluminum borosilicate, usually occurring in thin brown crystals. [1795-1805; < Gk *axinē* (ē) *AX* + *-ITE*]

ax/iolog/ical eth/ics, the branch of ethics dealing primarily with the relative goodness or value of the motives and end of any action. Cf. **deontological ethics**. [*AXIOLOG* (Y) + *-ICAL*]

ax-i-o-lo-gy (ak'sē ol'ə jē), *n.* the branch of philosophy dealing with values, as those of ethics, aesthetics, or religion. [1905-10; < F *axiologie* < Gk *axi(a)* worth, value + *-ologie*; see *-o-*, *-LOGY*] —**ax-i-o-log-i-cal** (ak'sē ə lōj'i kəl), *adj.* —**ax-i-o-log/i-cal-ly**, *adv.* —**ax-i-ol/o-gist**, *n.*

ax-i-om (ak'sē əm), *n.* 1. a self-evident truth that requires no proof. 2. a universally accepted principle or rule. 3. *Logic, Math.* a proposition that is assumed without proof for the sake of studying the consequences that follow from it. [1475-85; < L *axiōma* < Gk: something worthy, equiv. to *axiō*, var. s. of *axiōōn* to reckon worthy + *-ma* resultative *n.* suffix]

ax-i-o-mat-ic (ak'sē ə mət'ik), *adj.* 1. pertaining to or of the nature of an axiom; self-evident; obvious. 2. aphoristic. Also, **ax-i-o-mat/i-cal**. [1790-1800; < Gk *axiōmatikós*, equiv. to *axiōmat-* (s. of *axiōma* *AXIOM*) + *-ikos* *-IC*] —**ax-i-o-mat/i-cal-ly**, *adv.*

ax/iom of choice, *Math.* the axiom of set theory that given any collection of disjoint sets, a set can be so constructed that it contains one element from each of the given sets. Also called **Zermelo's axiom**; esp. *Brit.*, **multiplicative axiom**.

ax/iom of countabil/ity, *Math.* the property satisfied by a topological space in which the neighborhood system of each point has a base consisting of a countable number of neighborhoods (**first axiom of countability**) or the property satisfied by a topological space that has a base for its topology consisting of a countable number of subsets of the space (**second axiom of countability**).

ax-i-on (ak'sē ən'), *n.* *Physics.* a hypothetical particle having no charge, zero spin, and small mass; postulated in some forms of quantum chromodynamics. [1978; perh. *axi(al current)* + *-ON*]

ax-is (ak'sis), *n.*, *pl.* **ax-es** (ak'sēz). 1. the line about which a rotating body, such as the earth, turns. 2. *Math.* a. a central line that bisects a two-dimensional body or figure. b. a line about which a three-dimensional body or figure is symmetrical. 3. *Anat.* a. a central or principal structure, about which something turns or is arranged: *the skeletal axis*. b. the second cervical vertebra. 4. *Bot.* the longitudinal support on which organs or parts are arranged; the stem and root; the central line of any body. 5. *Analytic Geom.* any line used as a fixed reference in conjunction with one or more other references for determining the position of a point or of a series of points forming a curve or a surface. Cf. **x-axis**, **y-axis**. 6. *Crystall.* See **crystallographic axis**. 7. *Aeron.* any one of three lines defining the attitude of an airplane, one being generally determined by the direction of forward motion and the other two at right angles to it and to each other. 8. *Fine Arts.* an imaginary line, in a given formal structure, about which a form, area, or plane is organized. 9. an alliance of two or more nations to coordinate their foreign and military policies, and to draw in with them a group of dependent or supporting powers. 10. *the Axis*, (in World War II) Germany, Italy, and Japan, often with Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania. 11. a principal line of development, movement, direction, etc. [1540-50; < L *axis* an axle, axle, axis. See *AXI-*] —**ax-is-ed** (ak'sis), *adj.*

ax-is (ak'sis), *n.*, *pl.* **ax-is-es**. See **axis deer**. [1595-1605; < L *axis* a wild animal of India (Pliny)]

ax/is deer, an Asian deer, *Cervus* (*Axis*) *axis*, of India and Sri Lanka, having a reddish-brown coat spotted with white. Also called **axis**, **chital**, **spotted deer**.

ax/is of abscis/sas, *Math.* x-axis (def. 1).

ax/is of or/dinates, *Math.* y-axis (def. 1).

ax/is of revolu/tion, *Math.* an axis in a plane, about which an area is revolved to form a solid of revolution.

ax/is of sym/metry, 1. *Math.* a straight line for which every point on a given curve has corresponding to

it another point such that the line connecting the two points is bisected by the given line. 2. *Crystall.* See **rotation axis**. [1875-80]

ax-i-sym-met-ric (ak'sē si me'trik), *adj.* symmetric about an axis. [1890-95; *AXI-* + *SYMMETRIC*] —**ax/i-sym-met-ri-cal-ly**, *adv.*

ax/ job, *Informal.* See **hatchet job**. [1975-1980]

ax-le (ak'səl), *n.* 1. *Mach.* the pin, bar, shaft, or the like, on which or by means of which a wheel or pair of wheels rotates. 2. the spindle at either end of an axle-tree. 3. an axle-tree. [bef. 900; ME *axel*, OE *eaxl* shoulder, crossbeam (in *eaxle-gespann*); c. OFris *ax(e)le*, OS *ahsla*, OHG *ahsala* shoulder (G *Achsel*), ON *axl*, L *āla* (< deriv. of **akslā*)] —**ax/led**, *adj.*

ax-le-tree (ak'səl trē'), *n.* a bar, fixed crosswise under an animal-drawn vehicle, with a rounded spindle at each end upon which a wheel rotates. [1250-1300; ME; see **AXLE**, **TREE**]

ax-man (aks'mən), *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. 1. a person who wields an ax. 2. *Informal.* See **hatchet man**. [1665-75 *Amer.*; *AX* + *-MAN*]

Ax/min-star car/pet (aks'min'star), a machine-made carpet having a cut pile and an intricate design of many colors. [1810-20; named after town in SW England where manufactured]

axo-, var. of **axi-**, esp. before a consonant.

ax-o-lotl (ak'sə lōtl'), *n.* any of several salamanders of the genus *Ambystoma* that inhabit lakes and ponds of Mexico and remain in the larval stage as sexually mature adults. [1780-90; < Nahuatl *āxōlōtl*, equiv. to *ā(tl)* water + *xōlōtl* page, male servant]

axolotl,
Ambystoma mexicanum,
length 6 to 12 in.
(15 to 30 cm)



ax-on (ak'sən), *n.* *Cell Biol.* the appendage of the neuron that transmits impulses away from the cell body. Also, **ax-one** (ak'sən). See *diag.* under **neuron**. [1835-45; < NL < Gk *axōn* an axle, axis; c. L *axis*] —**ax-on-al** (ak'sə nl, -sən'l), *adj.*

ax-o-neme (ak'sə nēm'), *n.* *Cell Biol.* the shaft within a flagellum or cilium, containing twenty microtubules arranged as nine doublets and two singlets. Cf. **nine plus two array**. [1900-05; *AXO-* + *-neme* < Gk *nēma* thread]

ax-o-no-met-ric (ak'sə nō me'trik, -nə), *adj.* *Drafting.* designating a method of projection (**ax/onomet-ric projec/tion**) in which a three-dimensional object is represented by a drawing (**ax/onomet-ric draw/ing**) having all axes drawn to exact scale, resulting in the optical distortion of diagonals and curves. Cf. **cabinet** (def. 19), **isometric** (def. 5), **oblique** (def. 13). See *illus.* under **isometric**. [1905-10; < Gk *axōn* (see *AXON*) + *-o-* + *-METRIC*]

ax-o-plasm (ak'sə plaz'm), *n.* *Cell Biol.* cytoplasm within an axon. [1895-1900; *AXO-* (as comb. form of *AXON*) + *PLASM*] —**ax/o-plas/mic**, *adj.*

ax-seed (aks'sed'), *n.* See **crown vetch**. [1555-65; *AX* + *SEED*]

Ax-um (äks'əum), *n.* Aksum.

ay¹ (ä), *adv.* *Archaic.* ever; always. Also, **aye**. [1150-1200; ME *ei*, *ai* < Scand; cf. ON *ei*, c. OE *ā* ever]

ay² (ä), *interj.* *Archaic.* (used to express regret or sorrow.) [1300-50; ME]

ay³ (i), *adv.* *n.* *aye*¹.

Ay-a-cu-cho (ä'yä kōō'chō), *n.* a city in SW Peru: decisive victory of Bolívar over Spanish troops 1824. 27,900.

a-yah (ä'yə), *n.* (in India) a native maid or nurse. [1775-85; < Hindi *ayā* < Pg *aiā* maid-servant < L *avia* grandmother, equiv. to *avus* grandfather + *-ia* fem. suffix]

a-ya-huas-ca (ä'yə wä'ska), *n.* a woody South American vine, *Banisteriopsis caapi*, of the malpighia family, having bark that is the source of harmine, a hallucinogenic alkaloid used by Amazon Indians. [< AmerSp; further orig. uncert.]

Ay-a-na (ə yä'nə), *n.* a female given name: from an African word meaning "beautiful flower."

A-yan-de (ə yän'dä, ä'yän dā'), *n.* a male given name: from a Yoruba word meaning "we gave praises and he came."

a-ya-toi-lah (ä'yə tō'lə), *n.* (among Shi'ites) a title in the religious hierarchy achieved by scholars who have demonstrated highly advanced knowledge of Islamic law and religion. [1975-80; < Pers < Ar *āyat allāh* sign of God; cf. *ALLAH*]

Ay-de-lotte (äd'l ot'), *n.* **Frank**, 1880-1956, U.S. educator.

aye¹ (i), *adv.* 1. yes. —*n.* 2. an affirmative vote or voter, esp. in British Parliament, corresponding to *yea* in U.S. Congress. Also, **ay**. [1570-80; earlier sp. *I*, of uncert. orig.]

aye² (ä), *adv.* *ay*¹.

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pārt; set, ēqual; if, icē; ox, ōver, ōrder, oil, bōok, bōot, out, up, ūrge; child; sing; shoe; thin; thāt; zh as in treasūre. ē = a as in alone, ē as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, o as in circus, * as in fire (fīr), hour (ōr). l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.

ing a single speech sound, as *ea* in *meat* or *th* in *path*. [1780-90; *di-* + *-GRAPH*] —**di-graph-ic** (dī grăf'ik), *adj.* —**di-graph-i-cal-ly**, *adv.*

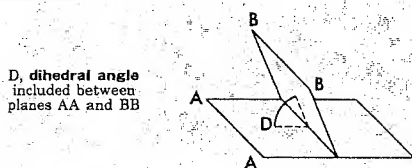
di-gress (dī grēs', dī-), *v.i.* 1. to deviate or wander away from the main topic or purpose in speaking or writing; depart from the principal line of argument, plot, study, etc. 2. *Archaic*. to turn aside. [1520-30; < *L. digressus*, ptp. of *digredi* to go off, depart, digress, equiv. to *di-* + *-gredi*, comb. form of *gradi* to go; cf. *GRADE*] —**di-gress'er**, *n.* —**di-gress-ing-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** 1. ramble, stray. See *deviate*.

di-gres-sion (dī grēs'hən, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of digressing. 2. a passage or section that deviates from the central theme in speech or writing. [1325-75; ME < AF < *L. digressiō* (s. of *digressiō*) a going away, aside, equiv. to *digress* (us) (see *DIGRESS*) + *-iō* + *-iōn*] —**di-gres-sion-al**, **di-gres-sion-ar-y**, *adj.* —**Syn.** 1. 2. deviation, divergence.

di-gres-sive (dī grēs'iv, dī-), *adj.* tending to digress; departing from the main subject. [1605-15; < *L. digressivus*. See *DIGRESS*, *-IVE*] —**di-gres-sive-ly**, *adv.* —**di-gres-sive-ness**, *n.*

di-he-dral (dī hē'drəl), *adj.* 1. having or formed by two planes. 2. of or pertaining to a dihedral. —**n.** 3. dihedral. 4. *Aeron.* the angle at which the right and left wings or the halves of any other horizontal surface of an airplane or the like are inclined upward or downward. [1790-1800; *di-* + *-HEDRAL*]

dihedral angle, *Geom.* 1. the angle between two planes in a dihedral. 2. dihedral. [1820-30]



D, dihedral angle included between planes AA and BB

di-he-dron (dī hē'drən), *n. Geom.* a figure formed by two intersecting planes. Also called **dihedral**, **dihedral angle**. [1820-30; *di-* + *-HEDRON*]

Di-hua (Chin. dē'hwā), *n. Pinyin.* former name of Ürümqi. Also, *Tihua*.

di-hy-brid (dī hī'brīd), *Biol.* —**n.** 1. the offspring of parents differing in two specific pairs of genes. —**adj.** 2. of or pertaining to such an offspring. [1905-10; *di-* + *HYBRID*] —**di-hy-brid-ism**, *n.*

di-hy-dr-ate (dī hī'drāt), *n. Chem.* a hydrate that contains two molecules of water, as potassium sulfate, $K_2SO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$. [*di-* + *HYDRATE*] —**di-hy-dr-ate**, *adj.*

di-hy-dric (dī hī'drik), *adj. Chem.* (esp. of alcohols and phenols) dihydroxy. [1875-80; *di-* + *-HYDRIC*]

di-hy-dro-er-got-a-mine (dī hī'drō ūr gōt'ə mēn', -mīn, -ūr gōt'əm, -in), *n. Pharm.* an ergot alkaloid, $C_{23}H_{33}N_5O_8$, used in the treatment of various types of migraine headache. [1940-45; *di-* + *HYDRO-* + *ERGOT-AMINE*]

di-hy-dro-mor-phi-none (dī hī'drō mōr'fē nōn'), *n. Pharm.* a narcotic compound, $C_{17}H_{19}O_5N$, prepared from morphine and used chiefly as an analgesic. [*di-* + *HYDRO-* + *MORPHINE* + *-ONE*]

di-hy-dro-strep-to-my-cin (dī hī'drō strep'tə mī'sīn), *n. Pharm.* an antibiotic, $C_{21}H_{31}N_7O_{12}$, derived by organic synthesis from and believed to be less toxic than streptomycin; used in the form of its sulfate chiefly in the treatment of tuberculosis. [1945-50; *di-* + *HYDRO-* + *STREPTOMYCIN*]

di-hy-dro-ta-chys-ter-ol (dī hī'drō tā kīs'tə rōl', -rōl'), *n. Pharm.* a white, crystalline, water-insoluble steroid, $C_{28}H_{48}O$, derived from ergosterol; used chiefly in the treatment of hypoparathyroidism. [*di-* + *HYDRO-* + *TACHY-* + *STEROL*]

di-hy-drox-y (dī hī drok'sē), *adj. Chem.* (of a molecule) containing two hydroxyl groups. [*di-* + *HYDROXY*]

di-hy-drox-y-phen-yl-al-a-nine (dī hī drok'sī fēn'l-ā nēn', -nīn, -fēn'l-), *n. Biochem.* dopa. [DIHYDROXY + PHENYLALANINE]

di-i-o-d-meth-ane (dī i'ə dō meth'ān), *n. Chem.* See *methylene iodide*. [*di-* + *IODO-* + *METHANE*]

di-i-so-bu-tyl phthal-ate (dī i'sō bŭt'ēl thal'āt, fthal'-, -i'sō-), *Chem.* a clear, colorless liquid, $C_{14}H_{18}O_4$, used chiefly as a plasticizer for nitrocellulose. [*di-* + *ISO-* + *BUTYL*, *PHthal*(IC ACID) + *-ATE*]

Di-jon (dē zhōn'), *n.* a city in and the capital of Côte d'Or, in E central France. 156,787.

Di-jon must-ard (dē zhōn; Fr. dē zhōn'), a medium-hot mustard, originally made in Dijon.

dik-dik (dik'dik'), *n.* any antelope of the genus *Madoqua* or *Rhynchotragus*, of eastern and southwestern Africa, growing only to 14 in. (36 cm) high at the shoulder. [1880-85; said to be a name imit. of the animal's cry, but language of orig. not ascertained]

dike (dik), *n., v., diked, dik-ing.* —**n.** 1. an embankment for controlling or holding back the waters of the sea or a river: *They built a temporary dike of sandbags to keep the river from flooding the town.* 2. a ditch. 3. a bank of earth formed of material being excavated. 4. a causeway. 5. *Brit. Dial.* a low wall or fence, esp. of earth or stone, for dividing or enclosing land. 6. an ob-

stacle; barrier. 7. *Geol.* a. a long, narrow, cross-cutting mass of igneous rock intruded into a fissure in older rock. b. a similar mass of rock composed of other kinds of material, as sandstone. 8. *Chiefly Australian Slang.* a urinal. —**v.** 9. to furnish or drain with a dike. 10. to enclose, restrain, or protect by a dike: *to dike a tract of land.* Also, **dyke**. [bef. 900; ME *dik(e)*, OE *dīc* < ON *dīki*; akin to *DITCH*] —**dik'er**, *n.*

dike (dik), *n. Slang* (often disparaging and offensive). **dyke** (dike/y, *adj.*

di-ke-tone (dī kē'tōn), *n. Chem.* a compound containing two C=O groups, as $CH_3COCOCH_3$. [1895-1900; *di-* + *KETONE*]

dik-tat (dik tāt'), *n.* a harsh, punitive settlement or decree imposed unilaterally on a defeated nation, political party, etc. [1930-35; < G: *lit.*, something dictated < *L. dictātus*, ptp. of *dictāre* to DICTATE]

dil. 1. dilute. 2. diluted.

di-lac-er-ate (di las'ə rāt', dī-), *v., -at-ed, -at-ing.* to tear apart or to pieces. [1375-1425; late ME (adj.) < *L. dilaceratus* torn to pieces (ptp. of *dilacerāre*), equiv. to *di-* + *lacerātus* torn; see *LACERATE*]

di-lac-er-a-tion (di las'ə rā'shən, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of dilacerating. 2. the state of being dilacerated. 3. *Dentistry.* displacement in the position of a developing tooth, resulting in angulation or distortion. [1375-1425; late ME < *LL. dilaceratiō* (s. of *dilaceratiō*) a tearing to pieces, equiv. to *dilacerāt(us)* (see *DILACERATE*) + *-iōn* + *-iōn*]

Di-lan-tin (di lan'tn, -tin, dī-), *Pharm., Trademark.* a brand of diphenylhydantoin.

di-lap-i-date (di lap'i dāt'), *v., -dat-ed, -dat-ing.* —**v.t.** 1. to cause or allow (a building, automobile, etc.) to fall into a state of disrepair, as by misuse or neglect (often used passively): *The house had been dilapidated by neglect.* 2. *Archaic* to squander; waste. —**v.i.** 3. to fall into ruin or decay. [1560-70; < ML *dilapidatus*, ptp. of *dilapidare* to squander (cf. *dilapidatiō* disrepair), *L.* to pelt with stones; see *DI-*, *LAPIDATE*] —**di-lap-i-da-tion**, *n.* —**di-lap-i-da-tor**, *n.*

di-lap-i-dat-ed (di lap'i dāt'id), *adj.* reduced to or fallen into partial ruin or decay, as from age, wear, or neglect. [1800-10; *DILAPIDATE* + *-ED*]

di-lat-ant (di lat'nt, dī-), *adj.* 1. dilating; expanding. 2. *Physical Chem.* exhibiting an increase in volume on being changed in shape, owing to a wider spacing between particles. 3. *Petrol.* (of rock) exhibiting an increase in volume owing to rearrangement and recrystallization of constituent grains. [1835-45; < *L. dilatant* (s. of *dilatans*), prp. of *dilatāre* to DILATE; see *-ANT*] —**di-lat-an-cy**, *n.*

di-lat-ate (di lat'āt, dī'ə tāt'), *adj.* dilated; broadened. [1375-1425; late ME < *L. dilatatus*, ptp. of *dilatāre* to DILATE; see *-ATE*]

di-la-ta-tion (dī'ə tā'shən, dī'le-), *n.* 1. a dilated formation or part. 2. *Pathol.* an abnormal enlargement of an aperture or a canal of the body. 3. *Surg.* a. an enlargement made in a body aperture or canal for surgical or medical treatment. b. a restoration to normal patency of an abnormally small body opening or passageway, as of the anus or esophagus. 4. *Mech.* the increase in volume per unit volume of a homogeneous substance. Also, **dilation**. [1350-1400; ME < OF < *L. dilatatiō* (s. of *dilatatiō*), equiv. to *dilatāt(us)* spread out (ptp. of *dilatāre* to DILATE) + *iōn* + *-iōn*] —**di-la-ta-tion-al**, *adj.*

di-late (di lat', dī-, dī'lāt), *v., -lat-ed, -lat-ing.* —**v.t.** 1. to make wider or larger; cause to expand. 2. *Archaic*. to describe or develop at length. —**v.i.** 3. to spread out; expand. 4. to speak or write at length; expatiate (often fol. by *on* or *upon*). [1350-1400; ME *dilatan* < MF *dilatar*, *L. dilatāre* to spread out, equiv. to *di-* + *lat-* (us) broad + *-are* inf. suffix] —**di-lat-a-bil-i-ty**, *n.* —**di-lat-a-ble**, *adj.* —**Syn.** 1. See *expand*.

di-la-tion (di lā'shən, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of dilating; state of being dilated. 2. dilation. [1590-1600; *DILATE* + *-ION*]

di-la-tive (di lā'tiv, dī-, dī'lā-), *adj.* serving or tending to dilate. [1520-30; *DILATE* + *-IVE*]

di-la-to-m-e-ter (dī'ə tom'i tēr), *n. Physics.* a device for measuring expansion caused by changes in temperature in substances. [1880-85; *DILATE* + *-O-* + *-METER*] —**di-la-to-m-e-tric** (dī'ə tə mē'trik), *adj.* —**di-la-to-m-e-tri-cal-ly**, *adv.* —**di-la-to-m-e-try**, *n.*

di-la-tor (di lā'tar, dī-, dī'lā-), *n.* 1. *Anat.* a muscle that dilates some cavity of the body. 2. *Surg.* an instrument for dilating body canals, orifices, or cavities. Also, **di-lat'er**. [1595-1605; *DILATE* + *-OR*]

di-la-to-ry (dī'ə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē), *adj.* 1. tending to delay or procrastinate; slow; tardy. 2. intended to cause delay, gain time, or defer decision: *a dilatory strategy*. [1250-1300; ME < AF < *L. dilatorius*, equiv. to *dilā-*, suppletive s. of *differre* to postpone (see *DIFFER*) + *-tōrius* -tōry] —**di-la-to-ri-ly**, *adv.* —**di-la-to-ri-ness**, *n.*

Di-lau-did (di lō'did, dī-), *Pharm., Trademark.* a brand name for the hydrochloride salt of dihydromorphone.

dil-dō (dīl'dō), *n., pl. -dos.* *Slang.* an artificial erect penis, used as a sexual aid. [1885-95; of obscure orig.]

di-lem-ma (di lem'ə), *n.* 1. a situation requiring a choice between equally undesirable alternatives. 2. any difficult or perplexing situation or problem. 3. *Logic.* a form of syllogism in which the major premise is formed of two or more hypothetical propositions and the minor premise is a disjunctive proposition, as "If A, then B; if C then D. Either A or C. Therefore, either B or D." [1515-25; < *LL* < Gk *dilemma*, equiv. to *di-* + *lemma* an assumption, premise, deriv. of *lambanai* to take] —**di-lem-matic** (di lem'mat'ik), *adj.* —**di-lem-mat-i-cal**, **di-lem-mic**, *adj.* —**di-lem-mat-i-cal-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** 1. See *predicament*. 2. question, difficulty.

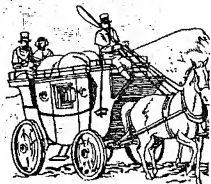
dil-et-tante (dīl'i tānt', dīl'i tānt', -tānt', -tan'tē), *n., pl. -tantes, -tan-ti* (-tānt'ē), *adj.* —**n.** who takes up an art, activity, or subject amusement, esp. in a desultory or superficial manner. 2. a lover of an art or science, esp. of a. 3. of or pertaining to dilettantes. [17. n. use of prp. of *dilettare* < *L. dilectare*]

di-lit (dīl'it), *n.* a city on NE Timor, in S 52,158. Also, **Dilli**, **Dilly**.

dil-i-gence (dīl'i jəns), *n.* 1. constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken; exertion of body or mind. 2. *Law.* the degree of caution required by the circumstances of a case. 3. care; caution. [1300-50; ME *diligencia* (s. of *diligentia*), equiv. to *diligent* (s. of *diligens*) + *-ia*; see *-ENCE*]

dil-i-gence (dīl'i jəns; Fr. dē lē zhāns'), *ces* (jən siz; Fr. zhāns'), a public stagecoach formerly used in France. [1735-45; short fr. *de diligence* speed coach]

diligence



dil-i-gent (dīl'i jent), *adj.* 1. constant in accomplishing something; attentive and persevere. 2. done or p. everying attention; painstaking: *a diligent student*. 3. *the files*. [1300-50; ME < AF < *L. diligens* (s. of *diligentia*), prp. of *diligere* to choose, like, equiv. to *-ligere* (comb. form of *legere* to choose, read)] —**di-lig-ent-ly**, *adv.* —**di-lig-ent-ness**, *n.* —**Syn.** 1. industrious, assiduous, sedulous. 2. indefatigable, untiring, tireless, unremitting.

dill (dīl), *n.* 1. a plant, *Anethum graveolens* parsley family, having aromatic seed and fl. leaves, both of which are used for flavoring. 2. See *dill pickle*. [bef. 900; ME *dile*; akin to G *Dill*, Sw *dill*] —**dilled**, *adj.*

Dill-i (dīl'ē), *n.* Dili. Also, **Dil'ly**.

Dill-inger (dīl'in jər), *n.* John, 1902-34 robber and murderer.

Dill-ion (dīl'ən), *n.* 1. C. (Lawrence) Douglas U.S. lawyer and government official, born last; Secretary of the Treasury 1961-65. 2. rest, 1831-1914, U.S. jurist and legal scholar. 3. See *dill pickle*. [bef. 900; ME *dile*; akin to G *Dill*, Sw *dill*] —**dilled**, *adj.*

dill-weed (dīl'wēd'), *n.* the leaves of the esp. when used dried and as a food flavoring. [1900-05]

dill-y (dīl'ē), *n., pl. -lies.* Informal, something regarded as remarkable, unusual, etc. [1930-35; *Amer.*; earlier as *adj.*: appar. a shortening of DELIGHTFUL or DELICIOUS (now taken as -y)]

dill-y bag (dīl'ē), *Australian.* a bag of reeds, grasses, or hair. [1840-50; *dilly* < W. Ab. Aboriginal language spoken around Queensland] *dila*

dill-y-dal-ly (dīl'ē dal'ē, -dal'-), *v.i., -lied* waste time, esp. by indecision; vacillate; [1735-45; gradational redupl. of *DALLY*]

dill-ti-a-zem (dīl'ti'ə zem'), *n. Pharm.* a whitish crystalline powder, $C_{22}H_{24}N_4O_8$, used as a urinary diuretic in the treatment of angina pectoris from isolated and rearranged chemical name]

dil-u-ent (dīl'yō'ent), *adj.* 1. serving to dilute. —**n.** 2. a diluting substance. [1715-20; *ent-* (s. of *diluens*), prp. of *diluere* to DILUTE]

dil-ute (dīl'ūt, dī-, *adj.* also dī'lūt), *v., -ut-ed, -ut-ing.* —**v.t.** 1. to make (a liquid) thinner by the addition of water or the like. 2. to wash as a color. 3. to reduce the strength, force, or of by admixture. —**v.i.** 4. to become diluted; reduced in strength, as a chemical by admixture of a dilute solution. [1545-55; < *L. dilutus* dissolved (ptp. of *diluere*), equiv. to *di-* + *lut-* (us) comb. form of *lutus* (lav'ere) to wash (suffix)] —**di-lut'er, di-lut'or, n.** —**di-lut'ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** 3. weaken, temper, mitigate, dilute

dil-u-tion (dīl'ūt'shən, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of diluting. 2. something diluted. 3. something diluted. [1500-50; *DILUTE* + *-ION*]

dil-u-vi-al (dīl'ūt'vē-əl), *adj.* 1. pert. caused by a flood or deluge. 2. *Geol.* Not taining to or consisting of diluvium. Also, [1650-60; < *LL. diluvialis*, equiv. to *diluviu* (DELUGE) + *-ālis* -AL']

dil-u-vi-um (dīl'ūt'vē-əm), *n., pl. -vi-a* (*-vi-ae*), *Geol.* Now rare. a coarse surficial deposit attributed to a general deluge but now regarded as drift. Also, **dil-u-vi-on**. [1810-20; < *L. diluvium* DELUGE]

dim (dīm), *adj., dim-mer, dim-mest, v., dim-ming.* —**adj.** 1. not bright; obscure from la-

elk clover



elk clover, a plant, *Aralia californica*, of the gin-
family, native to the west coast of North America,
bearing umbels of greenish or whitish flowers and berry-
like fruit, grown as an ornamental.

El Kerak (el ker'ák, ke rák'), Kerak.

Elk grass. See bear grass.

El Grove/Village, a town in NE Illinois. 28,907.

El Kila-lil (el' ká lél'), Arabic name of Hebron (def.

Elkhart (elk'hárt, el'kárt), n. a city in N Indiana.

Elkhound (elk'hound'), n. See Norwegian elkhound.

El (el), n. 1. an extension usually at right angles to
the end of a building. 2. elbow (def. 5). 3. something
that is L-shaped. Also, **el**, [1765-75; a sp. of the letter
name, or by shortening of **ELBOW**]

El (el), n. 1. a former measure of length, varying in dif-
ferent countries: in England equal to 45 in. (114 cm).

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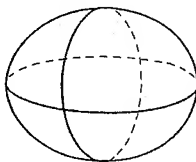
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omission of one or more items from a construction in
order to avoid repeating the identical or equivalent
items that are in a preceding or following construction,
as the omission of *been to Paris* from the second clause
of *I've been to Paris, but they haven't*. 2. *Print*, a mark
or marks as —, . . . , or * * * , to indicate an omission or
suppression of letters or words. [1560-70; < L *ellipsis* <
Gk *elleipsis* an omission, equiv. to *el-* (var. of *en-* EN-²)
+ *leip-* (s. of *leipein* to leave) + *-sis* -*sis*]

el-lip-so-graph (i lip'se graf', -gráf'), n. an instru-
ment for drawing ellipses, as a trammel. Also, **ellipso-**
graph. [ELLIPSE + -O- + -GRAPH]

el-lip-soid (i lip'soid), n. 1. *Geom.* a solid figure all
plane sections of which are ellipses or circles. Typical
equation: $(x^2/a^2) + (y^2/b^2) + (z^2/c^2) = 1$. —*adj.* 2. *el-*
lipsoidal. [1715-25; < F *ellipsoïde*. See ELLIPSE, -OID]

ellipsoid



el-lip-soi-dal (i lip'soid', el'ip-, ē'lip-), *adj.* pertain-
ing to or having the form of an ellipsoid. [1825-35; EL-
LIPSOID + -AL']

el-lip-some-ter (i lip'som'i tar, el'ip-, ē'lip-), n. *Optics*.
an instrument that measures the ellipticity of polar-
ized light, used for determining the thickness of thin
films. [ELLIPSE + -O- + -METER]

el-lip-t (i lip't), *v.t. Gram.* to delete by ellipsis. [by
back formation from ELLIPTICAL]

el-lip-ti-cal (i lip'ti kál), *adj.* Also, **el-lip'tic**. 1. per-
taining to or having the form of an ellipse. 2. pertaining
to or marked by grammatical ellipsis. 3. (of speech or
writing) expressed with extreme or excessive economy;
relieved of irrelevant matter: to converse in *elliptical*
sentences. 4. (of a style of speaking or writing) tending
to be ambiguous, cryptic, or obscure: an *elliptical* *prose*
that is difficult to translate. —*n.* 5. *Astron.* See **ellip-**
tical galaxy. [1650-60; < Gk *elleptikh* (ós) defective (see
ELLIPSIS, -TIC) + -AL'] —**el-lip'ti-cal-ness**, *n.*

el-lip-tical gal-axy, *Astron.* a type of galaxy having
the shape of a spheroid or ellipsoid, rather than a disk.
Also called **elliptical E galaxy**.

el-lip-tical light, *Optics*. light that has been ellipti-
cally polarized.

el-lip-ti-cal-ly (i lip'tik lē), *adv.* 1. in the form of an
ellipse. 2. in an elliptical manner; by an ellipse. 3. with
great economy of words or expression; concisely: to *spe-*
ak elliptically. 4. without sufficient transition or a logical
connection between thoughts, ideas, or expressions; am-
biguously or cryptically: to *jump elliptically* from
generalities to specifics. [1810-20; ELLIPTICAL + -LY]

el-lip-tical polariza-tion, *Physics*. polarization of an
electromagnetic wave in which the vector representing the
instantaneous intensity of the electric field describes
an elliptical helix in the direction of propagation. Cf. **cir-**
cular polarization.

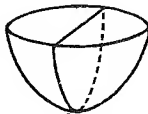
el-lip-tic func-tion, *Math.* one of a class of transcen-
dental functions related to elliptic integrals and analo-
gous to trigonometric functions. [1835-45]

el-lip-tic geom-etry. See **Riemannian geometry**
(def. 1).

el-lip-tic in-tegral, *Math.* a certain kind of definite
integral that is not expressible by means of elementary
functions. [1880-85]

el-lip-tic-i-ty (i lip'tis'i tē, el'ip-, ē'lip-), *n.* the de-
gree of divergence of an ellipse from a circle. [1745-55;
elliptic- (see ELLIPTICAL) + -ITY]

elliptic paraboloid



el-lip-tic parab-oloid, *Geom.* a paraboloid that can
be put into a position such that its sections parallel to
one coordinate plane are ellipses, while its sections paral-
lel to the other two coordinate planes are parabolas. Cf.
hyperbolic paraboloid.

el-lip-tic spring, *n.* a spring formed from two leaf
springs having their convex sides outward.

el-lip-to-graph (i lip'te graf', -gráf'), *n.* ellipsograph.
[1850-55]

El-lis (el'is), *n.* 1. **Alexander John** (*Alexander John*
Sharpe), 1814-90, English phonetician and mathemati-
cian. 2. (**Henry**) **Have-lock** (hav'lok), 1859-1939, Eng-
lish psychologist and writer.

El-lis Is-land, an island in upper New York Bay: a
former U.S. immigrant examination station.

El-lis-son (el'ē sən), *n.* **Ralph** (**Wal-do**), (wól'dō, wól'-),
born 1914, U.S. novelist, essayist, and lecturer.

El-lor-a (e lór'ē, e lór'ē), *n.* a village in S central
India: important Hindu archaeological site. Also, **Elura**.

Ells-worth (elz'wóth), *n.* 1. **Lincoln**, 1880-1951, U.S.
polar explorer. 2. **Oliver**, 1745-1807, U.S. jurist and
statesman: Chief Justice of the U.S. 1796-1800. 3. a
male given name.

Ells-worth Land, a region in Antarctica, bordered by
the Weddell Sea on the E, Byrd Land on the SW, and
Palmer Land on the N: discovered 1935.

elm (elm), *n.* 1. any tree of the genus *Ulmus*, as *U.*
procera (**English elm**), characterized by the gradually
spreading columnar manner of growth of its branches.
Cf. **American elm**, **elm family**. 2. the wood of such a
tree. [bef. 1000; ME, OE; c. OHG *elm*; akin to ON *almr*,
L *ulmus*]

El-man (el'mən), *n.* **Mis-scha** (mē'shā), 1891-1967, U.S.
violinist, born in Russia.

El Man-su-ra (el' man sōr'ə), a city in NE Egypt, in
the Nile delta: scene of the defeat of the Crusaders 1250
and the capture of Louis IX by the Mamelukes. 215,000.
Also called **Mansura**.

elm bark/bee/tle, 1. Also called **smaller European**
elm bark beetle, a shiny, dark reddish-brown bark bee-
tle, *Scolytus multistriatus*, originating in Europe and
now widespread in the U.S.: the primary vector of Dutch
elm disease. 2. Also called **native elm bark beetle**, a
bark beetle, *Hylurgopinus opaculus*, of eastern North
America, that also transmits Dutch elm disease. [1905-
10]

elm blight. See **Dutch elm disease**.

El-mer (el'mər), *n.* a male given name: from Old Eng-
lish words meaning "noble" and "famous."

elm fam-ily, the plant family Ulmaceae, typified by
deciduous trees having simple and often toothed leaves,
small petalless flowers, winged fleshy or nutlike fruit,
and watery sap, and including the elm, hackberry, and
planer tree.

Elm-hurst (elm'húrst), *n.* a city in NE Illinois, W of
Chicago. 44,251.

El-mi-ra (el mī'rə), *n.* a city in S central New York.
35,327.

El Mis-ti (el mēs'tē), a volcano in S Peru, in the
Andes. 19,200 ft. (5880 m). Also called **Misti**.

elm leaf/bee/tle, a chrysomelid beetle, *Galerucella*
luteola, of eastern North America, that feeds on the foli-
age of elm. [1880-85, Amer.]

El-mont (el'mont), *n.* a town on W Long Island, in SE
New York. 27,592.

El Mon-te (el mon'tē), a city in SW California, near
Los Angeles. 79,494.

Elm-wood Park, (elm'wōd'), 1. a city in NE Illi-
nois. 24,016. 2. a city in NE New Jersey. 18,377.

El Ni-ño (el nē'nō; Sp. el nē'nō), a warm ocean
current of variable intensity that develops after late De-
cember along the coast of Ecuador and Peru and some-
times causes catastrophic weather conditions. [*< Sp*: lit.,
the child, i.e., the Christ child, alluding to the appear-
ance of the current near Christmas]

El O-beid (el' ō bād'), a city in the central Sudan:
Egyptian army defeated by Mahdist forces 1883. 66,000.
Also, **Obeid**, **Al-Obeid**. Arabic, **Al-Ubayyid**.

el-o-cu-tion (el'ə kyōō'shən), *n.* 1. a person's manner
of speaking or reading aloud in public: *The actor's elocution*
is faultless. 2. the study and practice of oral deliv-
ery, including the control of both voice and gesture.
[1500-10; < L *elocutio* (s. of *elocūtio*) a speaking out,
equiv. to *ē-* + *locutio* (LOCUTION) —**el-o-cu-tion-ar-**
y (el'ə kyōō'shə nēr'ē), *adj.* —**el-o-cu-tion-ist**, *n.*

el-o-de-a (i lō'dē ə), *n.* any of several New World sub-
mersed aquatic plants of the genus *Elodea*, having nu-
merous, usually whorled leaves. Also called **anacharis**,
ditchmoss, **waterweed**. [*< NL* (1803), equiv. to Gk
(h)elōd(ēs) marshy (deriv. of *hēlos* marsh; see -ONE') +
-ea -EA]

El-o-him (e lō'him; *Seph. Heb.* e lō hēm'; *Ashk. Heb.*
e'lō him'; *in nonliturgical use by Orthodox Jews* e lō-
kēm', e'lō kēm'), *n.* God, esp. as used in the Hebrew
text of the Old Testament. [*< Heb* *ēlohim*, pl. of *ēlōah*
God] —**El-o-him-ic** (el'ō him'ik), *adj.*

El-o-hism (e lō'hiz əm, el'ō hiz'əm), *n.* the worship of
Elohim or the religious system based on such worship.
[ELOHIM + -ISM]

El-o-hist (e lō'hist, el'ō-), *n.* a writer of one of the
major sources of the Hexateuch, in which God is charac-
teristically referred to as *Elohim* rather than *Yahweh*.
Cf. **Yahwist**. [1860-65; < Heb *ēlōah* God + -IST] —**El-**
o-his'tic, *adj.*

e-loign (i loin'), *v.t.* to remove to a distance, esp. to
take beyond the jurisdiction of a law court. Also, **e-loin'**.
[1490-1500; < AF, OF *e(s)loigner* to go or take far < VL
**extlongāre*, for L *elongāre*; see ELONGATE]

El-o-ise (el'ō ēz', el'ō ēz'), *n.* a female given name.

e-long-gate (i lōng'gāt, i lōng'-, ē'lōng'gāt, ē'lōng'-),
v. -**gated**, -**gating**, *adj.* -**u.t.** 1. to draw out to
greater length; lengthen; extend. —*v.i.* 2. to increase in
length. —*adj.* Also, **e-long-gated**, 3. extended; length-
ened. 4. long and thin. [1530-40; < LL *elongātus*
lengthened out, ptp. of *elongāre* to make longer, make
distant, remove, equiv. to L *ē-* + -*longāre*, deriv. of
longus LONG, *longē* far off] —**e-long-ga-tive** (ē'lōng'gā-
tīv, ē'lōng'-), *adj.*

e-long-ga-tion (i lōng'gā'shən, i lōng'-, ē'lōng'-, ē'lōng'-),
n. 1. the act of elongating or the state of being elon-
gated. 2. something that is elongated. 3. *Astron.* the
angular distance, measured from the earth, between a
planet or the moon and the sun or between a satellite
and the planet about which it revolves. [1350-1400; ME
< LL *elongātiō* (s. of *elongātiō*), equiv. to *elongāre* (us)
(see ELONGATE) + -*tiō* -*tiō*]

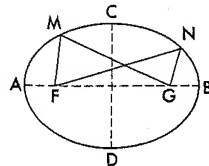
e-lope (i lōp'), *v.i.* -**eloped**, -**e-lop-ing**. 1. to run off
secretly to be married, usually without the consent
or knowledge of one's parents. 2. to run away with a
lover. 3. to leave without permission or notification;
escape. [1590-1600; ME **alopen* to run away (whence

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pārt; set, ēqual; if, ice;
ox, ōver, ōrder, oil, bōok, bōot, out; up, ūrge; child; sing; shoe; thin;
that; zh as in treasure. ə = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in
easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; * as in fire (fī'r), hour (ou'r).
l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l) and
button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.

ellipse

AB, major axis;
CD, minor axis;
F, G, foci.

2. $MC = GN + NF$,
M and N being
arbitrary points
on the ellipse



el-lip-sis (i lip'sis), *n.* pl. -**ses** (-sēz). 1. *Gram.* a. the
omission from a sentence or other construction of one or
more words that would complete or clarify the construc-
tion, as the omission of *who are*, while *I am*, or while *we*
are from *I like to interview people sitting down*. b. the

longbowman

longbowman (lɒŋg'boʊmən, lɒŋg'-), *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. an archer who uses a longbow. [1670-80; LONGBOW + MAN. See **-man**.]

Long Branch, a city in E New Jersey: seaside resort. Chiefly Bridge. a card remaining in a suit after all the opponents' cards in that particular suit have been drawn. [1860-65]

long case clock (lɒŋg'kæz, lɒŋg'-). See **tail-case clock**.

long chain (lɒŋg'tʃeɪn, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* Chem. pertaining to molecules composed of long chains of atoms, or to polymers composed of long chains of monomers. [1925-]

long clam. See **soft-shell clam**. [1835-45, Amer.]

long cloth (lɒŋg'klɒθ, lɒŋg'klɒθ'), *n.* a fine, white, heavy fabric of plain weave; high-grade muslin. [1535-1600]

long day (lɒŋg'deɪ, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* Bot. requiring a long photoperiod in order to flower. [1915-20]

Long Day's Journey Into Night, a play (1956) by Eugene O'Neill.

Long Dan (lɒŋg'dæn, lɒŋg'-), *n.* John Eric (Johnny), U.S. jockey and thoroughbred horse trainer.

long distance, telephone service between distant areas. [1900-05]

long distance (lɒŋg'dɪstəns, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. of, between, or covering long distances: a long-distance runner. 2. by long-distance telephone: a long-distance call. [1880-85]

long division, Math. division, usually by a number more than one digit, in which each step of the process is written down. [1820-30]

long dozen, a dozen plus one; thirteen; baker's dozen. [1660-65]

long-drawn-out (lɒŋg'drɔʊn'out, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. very long time; protracted: a long-drawn-out trial. 2. of great length; long: a long-drawn-out line. Also, **drawn-out**, **long-drawn**. [1900-05]

long (er), *n.*, *u.*, **longed**, **longe-ing**. —*n.* 1. a person used to guide a horse during training or exercise. 2. to train or exercise (a horse) by use of a long. [*< F, OF: n. use of longe (adj.) < L longus, of longus LONG*]

longed owl (lɒŋg'ɔʊl, lɒŋg'-), a mottled-gray owl, of the Northern Hemisphere, having a long tail on each side of the head. [1805-15]

long (er) on, *n.* Aeron. a main longitudinal support on an airplane. [1910-15; *< F: side-adj. to long(er) to run alongside, skirt (deriv. of long(er)) < -eron n. suffix*]

long (er), *n.* See **long s**.

longevity (lɒŋg'jeɪvəti, lɒŋg'-), *n.* 1. a long individual life: duration of individual life: Our family is famous for its longevity. 2. the length or duration of life: human longevity. 3. length of service, tenure, seniority: promotions based on longevity. [*< L longaevitā, See LONGEVOUS, -ITY*]

long (er) vus (lɒŋg'jəʊs, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* Archaic. long-lived; to a great age. [1670-80; *< L longaevus, equiv. to long(us) LONG + aev(um) time, age, life: -us adj. suffix; see -ous*]

long face, an unhappy or gloomy expression: He's got a long face ever since he failed the examination. [1780-90]

long (er) fast, *long*-, *adj.* 1. having an unhappy or gloomy expression; glum. 2. having a face that is long. [1585-95]

long (er) low (lɒŋg'fəʊ, lɒŋg'-), *n.* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807-82, U.S. poet.

Long (er) fard (lɒŋg'fɑrd, lɒŋg'-), *n.* a county in Leinster, Republic of Ireland, 31,138; 403 sq. mi. (1044 sq. km). Seat: Longford.

Long (er) lory, a large gallery, found esp. in the upper stories of Elizabethan and Jacobean manor houses and as a family room and as a promenade.

long (er) game, 1. the aspect of golf considered in relation to the ability of a player to hit shots, esp. drives, for long. Cf. **short game** (def. 1). 2. a card game in which cards in the pack are dealt before play. Cf. **game** (def. 2).

long (er) green, Slang. paper money; cash. [1890-95, Amer.]

long (er) hair (lɒŋg'hɑɪr, lɒŋg'-), *Informal*. —*n.* 1. Some-thing encouraging an intellectual. 2. a person, often a performer, composer, or lover of classical music, who is very interested in or devoted to the arts, esp. having long hair, esp. a hippie. 3. a cat having long hair. 4. Also, **long-haired**. 5. having long hair. 6. of or characteristic of longhairs. [1915-20; LONG + HAIR]

long (er) hand (lɒŋg'hænd, lɒŋg'-), *n.* 1. writing of the kind in which words are written out in full instead of from shorthand. —*adj.* 2. using longhand writing. 3. written in longhand: a long-handled letter. [1660-70; LONG + HAND]

long (er) shire (lɒŋg'ʃaɪr, lɒŋg'-), *n.* (used with a possessive) South Midland, Southern, and Western U.S. **long (er) shire** [LONG + HANDLES]

long (er) haul, See **haul** (def. 21). [1925-30]

long (er) haul (lɒŋg'hɔʊl, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. line-haul. 2. of or relating to a long haul. [1925-30]

long (er) head (lɒŋg'hed, lɒŋg'-), *n.* Anthropol. 1. a dolichocephalic person. 2. a head with a low cephalic index. [*< LONG + HEAD*]

long-head-ed (lɒŋg'hed'id, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. Anthropol. dolichocephalic. 2. of great discernment or foresight; farseeing or shrewd. Also, **long-head/ed**. [1690-1700] —**long-head/ed-ly**, *adv.* —**long-head/ed-ness**, *n.*

long/ horn, a moist Cheddar of cylindrical shape, weighing about 12 lb. (5.4 kg). [1825-35]

Long-horn (lɒŋg'hɔrn, lɒŋg'-), *n.* 1. (l.c.) See **Texas longhorn**. 2. Slang. a Texan. 3. (l.c.) See **long-horned beetle**. 4. one of a nearly extinct English breed of beef cattle having long horns. [1825-35; LONG + HORN]

long-horned bee/tle (lɒŋg'hɔrn'd, lɒŋg'-), any of numerous, often brightly colored beetles of the family Cerambycidae, usually with long antennae, the larva of which bores into the wood of living or decaying trees. Also called **longhorn**. [1830-40]

long-horned grass/hopper, any of numerous insects of the family Tettigoniidae, having long, threadlike antennae and well-developed stridulating organs on the forewings of the male. Also, **long/horn grass/hopper**. Also called **tettigoniid**. Cf. **katydid**. [1890-95]

long/ horse, *Gymnastics*. See **vaulting horse**. [1930-35]

long/ house, a communal dwelling, esp. of the Iroquois and various other North American Indian peoples, consisting of a wooden, bark-covered framework often as much as 100 ft. (30.5 m) in length. [1615-25]

long/ hun/dredweight, a hundredweight of 112 lb. (50.8 kg), the usual hundredweight in Great Britain, but now rare in the U.S. [1930-35]

longi-, a combining form meaning "long," used in the formation of compound words: **longicorn**. [*< L, comb. form of longus LONG +* see *-i*]

long-i-caudal (lɒŋg'i kɔd'l, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* having a long tail; macrurous. Also, **long-i-cau-date** (lɒŋg'i kɔ'dæt). [*< LONGI- + CAUDAL*]

long-i-corn (lɒŋg'i kɔrn, lɒŋg'-), *Entomol.* —*adj.* 1. having long antennae. 2. belonging or pertaining to the Cerambycidae, comprising the long-horned beetles. —*n.* 3. See **long-horned beetle**. [1840-50; *< NL longicornis long-horned, equiv. to longi- LONGI- + corn(u) HORN + -is adj. suffix*]

long-ies (lɒŋg'ez, lɒŋg'-), *n.* (used with a plural *u*) 1. long underwear, esp. for winter use. 2. long pants for boys. [1950-55, Amer.; LONG + -IE + -s]

long-ing (lɒŋg'ɪŋ, lɒŋg'-), *n.* 1. strong, persistent desire or craving, esp. for something unattainable or distant: filled with longing for home. 2. an instance of this: a sudden longing to see old friends. —*adj.* 3. having or characterized by persistent or earnest desire: a longing look. [bef. 1000; ME; OE *langung*; see **LONG**, -ING] —**long-ing-ly**, *adv.* —**long-ing-ness**, *n.*

—*Syn.* 1. aspiration. See **desire**. 3. desirous, yearning. —*Ant.* 1. apathy.

Long-i-nus (lɒŋg'i nəs, lɒŋg'-), *n.* Dionysius Cas-sius (kash'-səs), A.D. 213?-273, Greek philosopher and rhetorician. —**Long-i-ne-an** (lɒŋg'ɪn'e ən, lɒŋg'-), *adj.*

long/ iron, *Golf*. a club, as a driving iron, midiron, or mid-mashie, with a long shaft and an iron head the face of which has little slope, for hitting long, low shots. Cf. **short iron**. [1930-35]

long-ish (lɒŋg'ɪʃ, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* somewhat long. [1605-15; LONG + -ISH]

Long/ Is/land, an island in SE New York: the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens of New York City are located at its W end. 118 mi. (190 km) long; 12-20 mi. (19-32 km) wide; 1682 sq. mi. (4356 sq. km).

Long/ Is/land Sound, an arm of the Atlantic between Connecticut and Long Island. 90 mi. (145 km) long.

long-i-tude (lɒŋg'i tʊd, lɒŋg'-), *n.* 1. Geog. angular distance east or west on the earth's surface, measured by the angle contained between the meridian of a particular place and some prime meridian, as that of Greenwich, England, and expressed either in degrees or by some corresponding difference in time. 2. Astron. a. See **celestial longitude**. b. See **galactic longitude**. [1350-1400; ME *< L longitudo* length. See **LONGI-**, -TUDINE]

long-i-tude by account, *Navig.* the longitude of the position of a vessel as estimated by dead reckoning.

long-i-tu-di-nal (lɒŋg'i tʊd'n l, tʊd'n), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to longitude or length: **longitudinal measurement**. 2. extending in the direction of the length of a thing; running lengthwise: a thin, longitudinal stripe. 3. Zool. pertaining to or extending along the long axis of the body, or the direction from front to back, or head to tail. 4. pertaining to a research design or survey in which the same subjects are observed repeatedly over a period of time. —*n.* 5. a longitudinal framing member, as in the hull of a ship. [1535-45; *< L longitudo* (s. of *longitudo*; see **LONGITUDE**) + -AL¹] —**long-i-tu-di-nal-ly**, *adv.*

longitu/dinal coeffi/cient, *Naval Archit.* the ratio of the immersed volume of a hull to the product obtained by multiplying its length on the water line by the immersed area of the midship transverse section, all assuming a given depth of immersion of the hull. Also called **prismatic coefficient**.

longitu/dinal fram/ing, *Naval Archit.* See **Isher-wood framing**.

longitu/dinal sec/tion, the representation of an object as it would appear if cut by the vertical plane passing through the longest axis of the object.

longitu/dinal wave, *Physics*. a wave in which the direction of displacement is the same as the direction of propagation, as a sound wave. Cf. **transverse wave**. [1930-35]

long/ johns, (used with a plural *u*) *Informal*. long underwear, esp. for winter use. [1940-45]

long/ jump, *Track and Field*. 1. a jump for distance from a running start. 2. a field event featuring competi-

tion in the long jump. Also called **broad jump**, **running broad jump**. [1880-85]

long-jump (lɒŋg'jʌmp, lɒŋg'-), *v.i.* *Track and Field*. to execute a long jump. Also, **broad-jump**.

long/ jump/er, *Track and Field*. a participant in the long jump. Also called **broad jumper**. [1885-90]

long-last-ing (lɒŋg'las'tɪŋ, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. enduring or existing for a long period of time: a long-lasting friendship. 2. effective for a relatively long period of time: a long-lasting pain reliever. 3. resisting the effects of wear or use over a long period: a long-lasting fabric used for work clothes. [1520-30]

long/leaf pine (lɒŋg'leɪf, lɒŋg'-), 1. an American pine, *Pinus palustris*, valued as a source of turpentine and for its timber. 2. the wood of this tree. Also called **Georgia pine**. [1790-1800, Amer.]

long-lin-er (lɒŋg'li'nər, lɒŋg'-), *n.* a commercial fishing vessel that uses a long line with a large number of hooks attached to it. [1950-55; *long line* + -ER¹]

long-lived (lɒŋg'lɪvd, lɪvd, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. having a long life, existence, or duration: a long-lived man; long-lived fame. 2. (of an object) lasting or functioning a long time: a long-lived battery. [1375-1425; late ME; see **LONG**, LIVED] —**long-lived/ness**, *n.*

Long/ March, the 6000-mi. (9654-km) retreat of the Chinese Communist party and Red Army from southeastern China (Jiangxi province) to the northwest (Yanan in Shaanxi province) in 1934-35, during which Mao Zedong became leader of the Communist party. [trans. of *Chin chángzhēng*]

Long-mead-ow (lɒŋg'med'ə, lɒŋg'-), *n.* a town in S Massachusetts. 16,301.

long/ meas/ure, 1. Also called **long/ me/ter**. Pros. a four-line stanza in iambic tetrameter, often used in hymns, with the second and fourth lines rhyming and sometimes the first and third lines rhyming as well. 2. See **linear measure**. [1710-20]

Long-mont (lɒŋg'mənt, lɒŋg'-), *n.* a city in N central Colorado. 42,942.

long/ moss, See **Spanish moss**. [1735-45, Amer.]

long-neck (lɒŋg'nek, lɒŋg'-), *n.* Chiefly Texas. a bottle of beer. [1885-90, for an earlier sense; LONG + NECK]

long-/neck clam (lɒŋg'nek, lɒŋg'-). See **soft-shell clam**. [1900-05, Amer.]

Long-go-bard (lɒŋg'gɔ bɑrd, -gə-, lɒŋg'-), *n.* Lombard (def. 2).

long/ one, 1. *Informal*. See **tail one**. 2. *Slang*. a bottle of beer.

Long/ Par/liament, *Eng. Hist.* the Parliament that assembled November 3, 1640, was expelled by Cromwell in 1653, reconvened in 1659, and was dissolved in 1660.

long/ pig, (among the Maori and Polynesian peoples) human flesh as food for cannibals. [1850-55]

long/ play, a long-playing phonograph record. [1950-55]

long-play-ing (lɒŋg'plā'ɪŋ, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* of or pertaining to microgroove records devised to be played at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute. [1945-50]

long/ prim/er, *Print*. a 12-point type. [1590-1600]

long-range (lɒŋg'ræŋg, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* 1. considering or extending into the future: a long-range outlook; long-range plans. 2. designed to cover or operate over a long distance: long-range rockets. [1865-70]

long/ ri/ffle. See **Kentucky rifle**. [1820-30, Amer.]

long-run (lɒŋg'rʌn, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* happening or presented over a long period of time or having a long course of performances: a long-run hit play. [1900-05]

long s (es), a style of the letter s, suggesting a lower-case f in form, formerly common in handwriting and as a type character. Also, **long ess**.

long-ship (lɒŋg'shɪp, lɒŋg'-), *n.* a medieval ship used in northern Europe esp. by the Norse, having a long, narrow, open hull, a single square sail, and a large number of oars, which provided most of the propulsion. [1560-70; LONG + SHIP]

long-shore (lɒŋg'shɔr, -shɔr, lɒŋg'-), *adj.* existing, found, or employed along the shore, esp. at or near a seaport: longshore jobs; longshore current. [1815-25; aph. var. of *alongshore*]

long/shore drift. See **beach drift**. [1950-55]

long-shore-man (lɒŋg'shɔr'mæn, -shɔr'-), *n.*, *pl.* **-men**. a person employed on the wharves of a port, as in loading and unloading vessels. [1805-15; LONG-SHORE + MAN]

—*Usage*. See **-man**.

long-shore-wom-an (lɒŋg'shɔr'wɔm'ən, -shɔr'-), *n.*, *pl.* **-women**. a woman employed on the wharves of a port, as in loading and unloading vessels. [LONGSHORE(MAN) + -WOMAN]

—*Usage*. See **-woman**.

long-shor-ing (lɒŋg'shɔr'ɪŋ, -shɔr'-), *n.* the work or occupation of a longshoreman. [1925-30; LONG-SHORE(MAN) + -ING¹]

long/ shot, 1. a horse, team, etc., that has little chance of winning and carries long odds. 2. an attempt or undertaking that offers much but in which there is little chance for success. 3. *Motion Pictures, Television*. a camera shot taken at a relatively great distance from the subject and permitting a broad view of a scene. Cf. **closeup** (def. 2), **medium shot**. 4. by a long shot, by any means; by a measurable degree: They haven't finished by a long shot. [1785-95]

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, câpe, dêre, pârt, set, equal; if, îce; ox, ôver, ôrder, oil, ôkay, bôse, out, ùp, ârg; chûd, sing, shôp, thîr; thât; th; as in tressure, a = as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; s as in fire (fîr), hour (hûr), l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krâd'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.